



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Congressman Christopher Shays

invites you to a forum on

Veterans' Health Care

September 18th, 2006

10:00AM

featuring

Dr. Michael Kussman

**Under Secretary for Health,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Tully Health Center
32 Strawberry Hill Court
Stamford, CT 06902
(directions on the back)**

Panelists:

**Commissioner Linda Schwartz
Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Mr. Roger Johnson
Director, VA Connecticut Healthcare System**

To RSVP, for additional information, or if you need any special accommodations at the meeting, please contact Tom McCabe at 203/579-5870 or e-mail tom.mccabe@mail.house.gov

Congressman Christopher Shays, Fourth District Connecticut
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Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP

Acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Kussman, M.D. (US Army Ret) was appointed Acting Under Secretary for Health for the Veterans Health Administration on August 12, 2006 after having served as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health since May 29, 2005. As the Acting Under Secretary for Health, he leads the Nation's largest integrated health care system.

VHA provides health care to more than 5.3 million veterans and 7.7 million enrollees throughout the United States. With a medical care appropriation of approximately \$32 billion, VHA directly employs more than 198,000 health care professionals at more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community and facility-based clinics, nursing homes, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities. In addition to its medical care mission, VHA is the Nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical and scientific research. More than 125,000 volunteers, 92,000 health profession trainees, and 25,000 affiliated medical faculties are also an integral part of the VHA community.

Dr. Kussman is a native of Troy, N.Y. He earned a Bachelors and Medical degree from Boston University in 1968. He earned a Masters degree in management from Salve Regina University in 1994. Dr. Kussman began his military career in 1970, serving with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. He left active duty in 1972 to resume medical training and complete his residency at the Joslin Clinic in Boston. From 1974 to 1979, Dr. Kussman worked in private practice in Pittsfield, Mass.

In 1979, Dr. Kussman returned to active duty at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, serving as chief of Internal Medicine. He later served as Division Surgeon for the 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii. From 1984 to 1988, Dr. Kussman served as chief of the Department of Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. He completed his tour there as Deputy Commander for Clinical Services.

Dr. Kussman became The Army Surgeon General's chief consultant in Internal Medicine and governor for the Army Region of the American College of Physicians in 1988. He commanded Martin Army Community Hospital at Ft. Benning, Ga., from March 1993 to August 1995, and later commanded the Walter Reed Health Care System in Washington, D.C., where he was promoted to brigadier general.

Following his tour at Walter Reed, Dr. Kussman served as commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command, Command Surgeon for U.S. Army Europe, and TRICARE lead agent for Europe. He was responsible for Army health care throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Dr. Kussman is a graduate of the Army War College and an honor graduate of the Command and General Staff College. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (the highest award given in peace time), Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Order of Military Medical Merit. Dr. Kussman received the prestigious "A" designator from The Army Surgeon General, which identifies professorial rank, and the Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine as well as being selected as a Master of the College. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and serves on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

August 2006

Directions to the Tully Health Center

32 Strawberry Hill Court
Stamford, CT 06902
Telephone Number: 203-276-2000

From New York

» Via Merritt Parkway

Exit 34. Turn right onto Route 104 (Long Ridge Road) and travel 2.3 miles approaching a major intersection. Turn right onto Summer Street and continue for 0.7 miles to Third Street. Turn left onto Third Street and proceed for 0.5 miles (you will cross Bedford Street and Morgan Street), up the hill on Strawberry Hill Court. Turn right at the sign into Tully Health Center.

» Via Connecticut Turnpike

Exit 8. Turn left at traffic light onto Atlantic Street and proceed 0.6 miles to Broad Street. Turn right onto Broad Street and take the third left onto Grove Street (which becomes Strawberry Hill Avenue) for 0.7 miles to the top of the hill. At light, take a left onto Strawberry Hill Court. Entrance is down the hill on the left.

From New Haven

» Via Merritt Parkway

Exit 35. Turn right onto Route 137 (High Ridge Road). Travel on High Ridge Road for 2.7 miles (where High Ridge Road becomes Summer Street). From Summer Street, travel 0.7 miles to Third Street. Turn left onto Third Street and proceed for 0.5 miles (you will cross Bedford Street and Morgan Street), up the hill to Strawberry Hill Court. Turn right into entrance.

» Via Connecticut Turnpike

Exit 8. Turn right onto Elm Street and continue straight to Grove Street (which becomes Strawberry Hill Avenue) for 0.7 miles to the top of the hill. Turn left onto Strawberry Hill Court. Entrance to Tully Health Center is on the left.

PARKING

Everyone using the building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. is asked to use valet parking (free). Please drop your car off at the main entrance. For hours other than from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the parking lot is open and you are welcome to use the spaces available.